

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

EFREN LINARES, INDIVIDUALLY,
AND ON BEHALF OF OTHERS
SIMILARLY SITUATED, AND ON
BEHALF OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA AND AGGRIEVED
EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO THE
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL
ACT,

CASE NO. 1:22-CV-00816 ADA EPG

Plaintiff,

V.

CLASS ACTION SCHEDULING CONFERENCE ORDER

ABM INDUSTRY GROUPS, LLC,
FLOWERS BAKING CO. OF
MODESTO, LLC,

Defendants.

1 This Court conducted a scheduling conference on February 22, 2023. Counsel Stanley
2 Mallison and Daniel Keller telephonically appeared on behalf of the Plaintiff. Counsel Alexander
3 Chambers telephonically appeared on behalf of the Defendants. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b),
4 this Court sets a schedule for this action.

5 The Court opens discovery on class certification and the merits of the case. As discussed
6 on the record, it is the Court's expectation that the parties will take expert discovery in connection
7 with class certification. Additionally, the parties may take further discovery if they agree. Further
8 scheduling expanding the scope of discovery will, if necessary, be issued following class
certification.

9 **I. CONSENT TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

10 The parties are reminded of the availability of United States Magistrate Judge Erica P.
11 Grosjean to conduct all proceedings in this action. A United States Magistrate Judge is available
12 to conduct trials, including entry of final judgment, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), Federal Rule
13 of Civil Procedure 73, and Local Rule 305. The same jury pool is used by both United States
14 Magistrate Judges and United States District Court Judges. Any appeal from a judgment entered
15 by a United States Magistrate Judge is taken directly to the United States Court of Appeal for the
16 Ninth Circuit. However, the parties are hereby informed that no substantive rulings or decisions
will be affected by whether a party chooses to consent.

17 **II. EXPERT WITNESS DISCLOSURES**

18 The deadlines for all parties to serve their expert witness disclosures, rebuttal expert
disclosures, and expert discovery have not been set at this time.

19 All expert witness disclosures must **be made pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A),**
20 **(B) and (C), and shall include all information required thereunder.** In addition, Fed. R. Civ.
21 P. 26(b)(4) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e) specifically apply to discovery relating to expert witnesses
22 and their opinions. Each expert witness must be fully prepared to be examined on all subjects and
opinions included in the disclosures. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the
imposition of appropriate sanctions, including the preclusion of the expert's testimony, or of other
evidence offered through the expert.

23 **III. CLASS CERTIFICATION MOTIONS**

24 The following deadlines are set with regard to the filing of class certification motions:

25 Motion for Class Certification: **May 31, 2024**

26 Opposition: **July 12, 2024**

1 Reply: **August 30, 2024**

2 The hearing on any motion for class certification, to be heard by Magistrate Judge Erica P.
3 Grosjean in Courtroom 10, has been set for a one hour hearing on **September 13, 2024, at 10:00**
4 **AM.**

5 The Court will set additional deadlines regarding class merits discovery and trial dates, if
6 necessary, after a ruling on any motion for class certification.

7 **IV. STATUS CONFERENCE**

8 A Mid-Discovery Status Conference will be held on **September 19, 2023, at 10:00 AM**
9 in Courtroom 10 before Magistrate Judge Erica P. Grosjean. The parties are directed to file a joint
10 report, of up to five (5) pages, outlining the status of the case, any additional discovery still
11 planned, potential for settlement, and any other issues pending that would benefit from the
12 Court's assistance/direction. The parties shall file the report one full week prior to the conference.
13 If the parties are appearing telephonically, each party shall dial 1 (888) 251-2909 and enter access
14 code 1024453. Alternatively, the parties and counsel may appear in person. If one or more parties
15 wish to appear in person, they shall email Michelle Rooney, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, at
16 mrooney@caed.uscourts.gov **at least 24 hours before the proceeding** so that a notation can be
17 placed on the Court's calendar.

18 **V. PRETRIAL MOTION SCHEDULE**

19 **A. *General Information Regarding Filing Motions***

20 The parties are advised that unless prior leave of the Court is obtained before the filing
21 deadline,¹ *all* moving and opposition briefs or legal memoranda, including joint statements of
22 discovery disputes, filed in civil cases before Magistrate Judge Grosjean, shall not exceed twenty-
23 five (25) pages. Reply briefs by the moving party shall not exceed ten (10) pages. These page
24 limits do not include exhibits. When scheduling motions (other than discovery motions) the
25 parties shall comply with Local Rule 230.

26 Unless otherwise directed, the parties are permitted to appear telephonically to argue
27 motions and may do so by **dialing 1-888-251-2909 and entering access code 1024453**.
28 Alternatively, the parties and counsel may appear in person. If one or more parties wish to appear
29 in person, they shall email Michelle Rooney, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, at
30 **mrooney@caed.uscourts.gov** **at least 24 hours before the proceeding** so that a notation can be

31 ¹ Parties may seek leave through a telephonic conference among all parties and the Court, or by short motion.

1 placed on the Court's calendar.

2 **1. *Informal Discovery Conference***

3 In order to file a motion involving a discovery dispute, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 through 37
4 and 45,² a party must receive permission from the Court following an informal telephonic
5 discovery dispute conference. However, non-parties challenging a subpoena under Fed. R. Civ.
6 P. 45 are not required to request an informal conference before filing a motion. A party wishing
7 to schedule such a conference should contact chambers to receive available dates. The Court will
8 schedule the conference as soon as possible, taking into consideration the urgency of the issue.

9 Prior to the conference, the parties shall simultaneously file an Informal Discovery
10 Dispute Letter Brief, outlining their positions regarding the dispute. Such briefs shall be no
11 longer than three pages single-spaced, and may include up to five pages of exhibits. The Court
12 will provide the date and time the Letter Briefs are due at the time the conference is scheduled.

13 At the time of conference, the parties shall **dial 1 (888) 251-2909 and enter access code**
14 **1024453**. The Court will not issue a formal ruling at that time. Nevertheless, the Court will
15 attempt to provide guidance to the parties to narrow or dispose of the dispute. If no resolution can
16 be reached without formal motion practice, the Court will authorize the filing of a formal
17 discovery motion.

18 **2. *Discovery Motions***

19 If a discovery motion, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 through 37 and 45, is brought after receiving
20 permission from the Court, the parties must prepare and file a Joint Statement re: Discovery
21 Disagreement ("Joint Statement") as required by Local Rule 251.³ In scheduling such motions,
22 Magistrate Judge Grosjean may grant applications for an order shortening time pursuant to Local
23 Rule 144(e). Motions to shorten time will *only* be granted upon a showing of good cause. If a
24 party does not obtain an order shortening time, the notice of motion must comply with Local Rule
25 251.

26 A Joint Statement not to exceed twenty-five (25) pages must be filed seven (7) calendar
27 days before the scheduled hearing date. Prior to the filing of the Joint Statement, the parties must
28 meet and confer as set forth in Local Rule 251(b). Courtesy copies for any pleading in excess of
29 twenty-five pages (25) (including exhibits) shall also be delivered to chambers via US mail, or

2 The Court construes "discovery dispute" broadly, which includes, but is not limited to, disputes regarding written discovery, oral depositions, physical and mental examinations, and protective orders.

3 Certain limited exceptions from filing the required Joint Statement are outlined in Local Rule 251(e).

1 hand delivery, at the time the Joint Statement is electronically filed. Motions may be removed
2 from the Court's calendar if the Joint Statement is not timely filed, or if courtesy copies are not
3 timely delivered.

4 **VI. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL PROCEDURES**

5 All counsel are expected to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil
6 Procedure and the Local Rules of the Eastern District of California and to keep abreast of any
7 amendments thereto. The Court requires strict compliance with these rules. Sanctions will be
8 imposed for failure to follow the rules as provided in both the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
and the Local Rules of the Eastern District of California.

9 **VII. EFFECT OF THIS ORDER**

10 This order represents the Court and the parties' best estimated schedule to complete this
11 case. Any party unable to comply with the dates outlined in this order shall immediately file an
appropriate motion or stipulation identifying the requested modification(s).

12 *The dates set in this Order are considered to be firm and will not be modified absent a
13 showing of good cause, even if a stipulation to modify is filed.* Stipulations extending the
14 deadlines contained herein will not be considered unless they are accompanied by affidavits or
15 declarations with attached exhibits, where appropriate, that establish good cause for granting the
16 requested relief. Due to the impacted nature of the civil case docket, this Court disfavors requests
17 to modify established dates.

18 Failure to comply with this order shall result in the imposition of sanctions.
IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 Dated: March 16, 2023

20 /s/ *Eric P. Groj*
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE